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D. 4
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a convex repulsive force receiving member extending generally vertically from the body of said differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a fastener for coupling the body of said differential housing integrally with at least one of said support brackets, said fastener extending through said through hole and securing together the convex repulsive force receiving member and said one support bracket.

D5

8. (Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein the fastener is a bolt.

D6

10. (Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein the adjacent surfaces of the said one support bracket and said convex force receiving member are in abutment when fastened.

D7

12. (Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein said one support bracket includes a generally vertical plate and said convex force receiving member extends vertically from the body of said housing.

13. (Amended) The axle housing assembly of claim 7, wherein the convex force receiving member is formed integrally with the housing.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the present application. Each of the pending claims stands rejected. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Herzog U.S. Patent No. 863,604. Reconsideration is requested.

Amended independent claims 1 and 7 are directed to an axle housing assembly. This assembly comprises, inter alia, a convex repulsive force receiving member provided on the body of a differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a repulsive force receiving bolt for coupling the body of the differential housing integrally with a support means. See, for example, Figures 1 and 2 illustrating an integrally formed differential housing **22**, a convex repulsive-force receiving member **48** (allowing attachment of the differential directly to an axle bracket), and a pair of axle tubes **24** within the housing body. The claimed axle housing assembly, which includes a convex repulsive force receiving member, not only provides for easier assembly but also provides for support of the axle housing without highly increasing the dimensional precision. (See Specification at p. 3 line 17 to p. 8 line 10; p. 3 line 14 to line 17).

Applicants respectfully submit that Herzog fails to disclose or suggest a convex repulsive force receiving member that is provided on the body of a differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a repulsive force receiving bolt for coupling the body of the differential housing integrally with a support means. Instead, Herzog teaches the joints of union **12** between the equalizer casing and the beam are formed by pairs of lugs on the casing straddling the beam in conjunction with bolts passing through the lugs and beam to firmly unite the equalizer casing to the beam. (Herzog at Page 1 lines 72-77; see

Figure 5). Moreover, the joints of union 12 taught in Herzog are oriented orthogonal with respect to guard tubes 25. (See Figs. 1 and 5). Because Herzog fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of amended independent claims 1 and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentably distinguishable over this reference.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 12 and 13 depend either directly or indirectly on independent claims 1 or 7, and, therefore incorporate each limitation of claims 1 or 7. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 12 and 13 are allowable over Herzog for the reasons as claims 1 and 7. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) “as being unpatentable over Herzog in view of Pegg.” Reconsideration is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Herzog nor Pegg, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest an axle housing assembly as recited in claim 11. Claim 11 depends indirectly from independent claim 7, and, therefore, includes all the limitations of the independent claim. As discussed above, Applicants’ invention as recited in amended claim 7 is directed to an axle housing. This assembly comprises, inter alia, a convex repulsive force receiving member provided on the body of a differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a repulsive force receiving bolt for coupling the body of the differential housing integrally with a support mean.

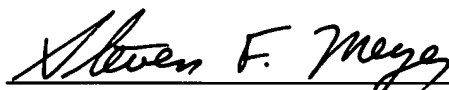
As discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Herzog fails to disclose or suggest an axle housing assembly having a convex repulsive force receiving member that is provided on the body of a differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a repulsive force receiving bolt for coupling the body of the differential housing integrally with a support means. Pegg does nothing to remedy this deficiency. Thus, without admitting that is proper to combine Herzog with Pegg, Applicants submit that no combination of the elements taught by these references achieves the axle housing assembly recited in claim 11.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all of the claims as presently presented, are patentable, and that this application is now in allowable condition.

Respectfully submitted,
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ATTACHMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13 as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) An axle housing assembly comprising:

an axle housing having a differential housing and a cover attached to the differential housing, said differential housing having an integrally formed housing body and being provided with a pair of axle tubes within said housing body;

support means adapted for mounting said axle housing to a base frame; and

a convex repulsive force receiving member provided on the body of said differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a fastener for coupling the body of said differential housing integrally with said support means .

4. (Three Times Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 3, wherein said convex repulsive force receiving member is secured to one of said pair of axle brackets by a repulsive force receiving bolt so that said body is supported by the base frame through the brackets.

5. (Three Times Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 4, wherein a thick portion projecting toward said body is formed on the one of said pair of axle brackets,

said convex repulsive force receiving member further including a portion integrally formed on said body,

said repulsive force receiving bolt being caused to pass through said thick portion and said portion of said convex repulsive force receiving member.

7. (Three Times Amended) An axle housing assembly comprising:

an axle housing having a differential housing and a cover attached to the differential housing, said differential housing having an integrally formed housing body and being provided with a pair of axle tubes within said housing body;

support brackets for supporting said axle housing on a base frame; and

a convex repulsive force receiving member extending generally vertically from the body of said differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a fastener for coupling the body of said differential housing integrally with at least one of said support brackets [; and] said [a] fastener extending through said through hole and securing together the convex repulsive force receiving member and said one support bracket.

8. (Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein the fastener is a bolt[and the repulsive force receiving member and said one support bracket each have a through hole for receiving the fastener when the holes are aligned].

10. (Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein the adjacent surfaces of the said one support bracket and said convex force receiving member are in abutment when fastened.

12. (Amended) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein said one support bracket includes a generally vertical plate and said convex force receiving member extends vertically from the body of said housing.

13. (Amended) The axle housing assembly of claim 7, wherein the convex force receiving member is formed integrally with the housing.